

By Pfc. Jason Reeves

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. – Few students expect to learn the correct way to do a push-up on their first day of school, but such was the case for a local graduate of <<Name of High school>> on Friday, July 15, when the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) held it's annual Reception Day, or R-Day as it is referred to by staff and facility of the school.

Cadet Candidate (CC) <<Name of Cadet>>, <<Son/Daughter>> of <<CC's Parent's Names>>, was one of 235 students selected by The United States Military Academy (USMA) to enter the Prep School Class of 2006.

Much like West Point's own Reception Day, USMAPS R-Day is an opportunity for the parents of CCs to acquaint themselves with the mission of the Prep School, while breaking in new students to the demands and discipline of military life.

Demands such as standing at the position of attention with 50 pounds strapped to their back, raising a "paw" and waiting for permission to speak, or re-hydrating at the command of, "Drink Water!" were tasks quickly adopted by the new CCs with the help of 19 West Point Cadets who volunteered to assist throughout Cadet Candidate Basic Training (CCBT), and were ready to make on the spot corrections to the CCs and give words of encouragement through a hand-held loudspeaker.

CCBT is an intensive four week course in military doctrine, including basic military drill and ceremonies, customs and courtesies, land navigation, common task training and also familiarity with the M-16A2 rifle.

Also assisting in the transition from civilian to soldier in the USMAPS Class of 2006 are 55 prior service CCs, including 18 soldiers with combat experience, who will help teach the incoming high school graduate classmates the values of professionalism and respect necessary to succeed in any military environment.

The Class of 2006 is the first class to fully utilize the newly renovated USMAPS complex, which includes new classrooms, new athletic facilities, and a state of the art auditorium located conveniently on the Prep School campus. The renovation of the barracks, or housing units, was completed last year.

The purpose of the Prep School is to prepare selected Cadet Candidates for admission to West Point by providing focused academic, military and physical instruction in a moral-ethical military school environment in order to prepare and motivate candidates for success at USMA.

The mission of the United States Military Academy at West Point is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army.

For more information about the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, visit: www.usma.edu/usmaps.